

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01

/137 W

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O R 052039Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5820

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 4551

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HO

SUBJ: EL SALVADOR-HONDURAS NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 4507

1. THE HONDURAN DELEGATION TO THE BILATERAL TALKS WITH EL SALVADOR RETURNED FROM MEXICO ON DECEMBER 4. ACCORDING TO

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES FONMIN BATRES WENT TO WASHINGTON ON SAME DAY. IT IS UNDERSTOOD HE WILL BE RETURNING TO TEGUCIGALPA SHORTLY.

2. TREASURY MINISTER MANUEL ACOSTA BONILLA LEFT FOR PANAMA ON DECEMBER 4 TO MEET WITH PANAMANIAN CHIEF OF STATE GEN TORRIJOS. THE APPARENT PURPOSE OF ACOSTA'S
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TRIP IS TO EXPLAIN THE HONDURAN POSITION IN THE MEXICAN

TALKS TO TORRIJOS.

3. JOSE DURON , SECOND RANKING MEMBER OF THE HONDURAN DELEGATION, IN A PRESS INTERVIEW ON DECEMBER 4, DECLARED THAT HE IS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME OF THE TALKS AND UNCONVINCED OF SALVADORAN GOOD FAITH IN DEALING WITH THE ISSUES. HE ADDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOW HAVE TO TAKE PLACE UNDER A CLOUD CREATED BY THE SALVADORAN DENUNCIATION OF THE PACT OF BOGOTA WHICH, HE ADDED, COULD NOT HAVE COME AT A WORSE TIME. HE DID CONCEDE THAT THE DENUNCIATION HAD ALSO BEEN A SURPRISE TO THE SALVADORAN DELEGATION. HE CONCLUDED THE INTERVIEW BY NOTING THAT HONDURAS IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT AND THAT THE DELEGATION HOPES TO COMPLETE A TREATY IN THE UPCOMING FOURTH AND FINAL SESSION. DURON SAID THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT AN OUTCOME.

4. TODAY'S LA PRENSA CARRIED AN EDITORIAL CONDEMNING THE SECRECY OF THE RECENT JALAPA MEETING. WHILE NOTING THAT ALL EFFORTS TO ARRIVE AT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WERE WORTHWHILE AND THAT THE PAPER HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO SUCH MEETINGS, A STRONG CONTRAST WAS MADE TO THE SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR WHERE THE MEETING WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE PRESS. THE EDITORIAL SAID THAT "PUBLIC OPINION IS PREOCCUPIED BY THE DESIRE TO KEEP ALL THESE COMINGS AND GOINGS SECRET, BECAUSE IN AN AFFAIR SUCH AS THIS, THE ENTIRE NATION HAS A RIGHT TO BE WELL INFORMED"
SANCHEZ

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